

OBSTETRICS | U.S. Rural Hospitals

Rural hospitals provide access to obstetrical care close to home for millions of Americans. But now, that crucial lifeline is being threatened.



Rural community hospitals deliver nearly **1 in 10 babies in the U.S.** The availability to local, timely access to care saves lives.

Rural hospitals accounted for **333,824** [9.5%] of the **3,505,115** total community hospital births in 2020.

1,796

There are **1,796 rural community hospitals** in the U.S., slightly more than a third of all community hospitals.

Rural hospitals represented **35%** of the nation's **5,139** community hospitals in 2020.

Yet, nearly half of rural community hospitals **did not offer obstetric services** in 2020.

72% [1,292 of 1,796] of all U.S. rural community hospitals reported whether they offered obstetric services in 2020. Of these hospitals, **47%** [601 of 1,292] indicated they did not provide obstetric services.



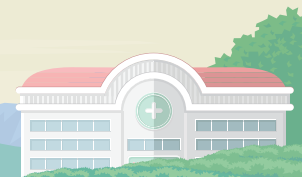
89

Between 2015 and 2019, there were at least **89 obstetric unit closures** in U.S. rural hospitals.



More than 2.2 million women of childbearing age **live in maternity care deserts** (1,095 counties) that have no hospital offering obstetric care, no birth center and no obstetric provider.

Source: [Nowhere to Go](#). March of Dimes, 2020.



For more information, visit:
aha.org/advocacy/maternal-and-child-health